GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:232
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2008
GAS SHORTAGE FOR POWER PLANTS
Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several power plants of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) in the country are lying idle due to shortage in gas supply;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to meet the shortage in gas supply for NTPC power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 232 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 14.03.2008 REGARDING GAS SHORTAGE FOR POWER PLANTS.
(a) & (b) : NTPC Limited`s six gas based power stations with total installed capacity of 3605 MW, are currently underutilized due to shortage of gas.

The estimated gas requirement to operate these plants at 90% Plant Load Factor (PLF) is around 17.35 Million Standard Cubic Meter per Day (MMSCMD). There are long-term agreements with Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) for supply of 12.93 MMSCMD of gas under Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) category for the above six gas based stations. However, due to shortage of gas, the delivered quantities are less than the contracted quantities.

During April, 2007 to February, 2008, average APM gas supply for these stations has been 9.06 MMSCMD only, leading to a shortfall in optimum gas based generation.
Station-wise net shortfall in power generation due to fuel shortage after accounting for higher cost generation on liquid fuel/Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG) during April, 2007 to February, 2008 is as under:

Station	Total Generation (Million Units)	Generation loss due to Gas shortage (Million Units)
Anta	2496	568
Auraiya	3691	1067
Dadri	4795	1078
Faridabad	2388	576
Kawas	3265	1581
Gandhar	3588	1131
Total	20223	6001

(c) to (e) : The gas shortage has been partially mitigated as NTPC Ltd. made arrangements for costlier Spot RLNG from major domestic suppliers, namely, Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.

(BPCL), Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation (GSPC), Hazira LNG Ltd. (HLPL) from time to time based on requirement and availability. During April, 2007 to February, 2008, the average Spot RLNG supplies have been 2.71 MMSCMD.

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has initiated various steps to augment gas supplies for the domestic market including:

(i) Intensification of domestic Exploration and Production (E&P) activities;

(ii) Exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) gas;

(iii) Implementation of Natural Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) for evaluation of hydrate resources and their possible commercial exploitation;

(iv) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Import; and

(v) Gas sourcing through transnational gas pipelines.